DRAFT CLAIMS

622-37 (USSN 09/524,757)

13 (Amended). A method for generating an average C_{max} of Diclofenac comprised between 400 and 2500 ng/ml in a human [patients] patient in need of such a treatment, which comprises administering to [those patients] said patient a pharmaceutical formulation containing from 10 to 60 mg of Diclofenac in acid and/or salt form together with [alkali metal bicarbonates or mixtures thereof] an alkali metal bicarbonate selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, potassium bicarbonate and mixtures thereof and customary excipients and adjuvants, wherein said alkali metal [bicarbonates are] bicarbonate is present in [amounts] an amount of from 20 to 80 % by weight based on the weight of Diclofenac.

14 (Amended). A method according to claim 13 wherein said alkali metal [bicarbonates are] bicarbonate is present in [amounts] an amount of from 40 to 80 % by weight based on the weight of Diclofenac.

[15. A method according to claim 14 wherein said alkali metal bicarbonates are sodium and/or potassium bicarbonates.]

16 (Amended). A method according to claim 14 wherein said average C_{max} of Diclofenac is comprised between 1700 and 2300 ng/ml and said pharmaceutical formulation contains about 50 mg of Diclofenac in a form selected from the group consisting of its potassium salt form [and/or] and its sodium salt form.

17 (Amended). A method according to claim 14 wherein said average C_{max} of Diclofenac is comprised between 800 and 900 ng/ml and said pharmaceutical formulation contains about 25 mg of Diclofenac in a form selected from the group consisting of its potassium salt form [and/or] and its sodium salt form.

18 (Amended). A method according to claim 14 wherein said average C_{max} of Diclofenac is comprised between 400 and 500 ng/ml and said pharmaceutical formulation contains about 12.5 mg of Diclofenac in a form selected from the group consisting of its potassium salt form [and/or] and its sodium salt form.

19 (Amended). A method according to claim 13 wherein said average C_{max} of Diclofenac is reached after 13÷27 minutes [since] following administration.

20 (Amended). A method for obtaining an average T_{max} of Diclofenac after 5-30 minutes [since] following administration in a human [patients] patient in need of such a treatment, which comprises

administering to [those patients] said patient a pharmaceutical formulation containing Diclofenac in acid and/or salt form together with [alkali metal bicarbonates or] an alkali metal bicarbonate selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, potassium bicarbonate and mixtures thereof and customary excipients and adjuvants, wherein said alkali metal [bicarbonates are] bicarbonate is present in [amounts] an amount of from 20 to 80 % by weight based on the weight of Diclofenac.

21 (Amended). A method.according to claim 20 wherein said T_{max} of Diclofenac is reached after 13-27 minutes since administration.

22 (Amended). A method according to claim 20 wherein said pharmaceutical formulation contains from 10 to 60 mg of Diclofenac in acid and/or salt form.

23 (Amended). A method according to claim 22 wherein said alkali metal [bicarbonates are] bicarbonate is present in [amounts] an amount of from 40 to 80 % by weight based on the weight of Diclofenac.

[24. A method according to claim 23 wherein said alkali metal bicarbonates are sodium and/or potassium bicarbonates.]

25 (Amended). A method according to claim 20 wherein said formulation is a pharmaceutical formulation for oral use comprising at least an immediate release layer and at least a delayed release layer, said immediate release layer containing Diclofenac in acid and/or salt form together with [alkali metal bicarbonates or] an alkali metal bicarbonate selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, potassium bicarbonate and mixtures thereof and customary excipients and adjuvants, wherein said alkali metal [bicarbonates are] bicarbonate is present in [amounts] an amount of from 20 to 80 % by weight based on the weight of Diclofenac.

26 (Amended). A method according to claim 25 wherein said

second delayed release layer also contains Diclofenac as the active principle.

27 (Amended). A method according to claim 25 wherein said alkali metal [bicarbonates are] bicarbonate is present in [amounts] an amount of from 40 to 80 % by weight based on the weight of Diclofenac.

28 (Amended). A method according to claim 27 [characterized in that] wherein said Diclofenac is present in its potassium and/or sodium salt form [and said alkali metal bicarbonates are potassium and/or sodium bicarbonates.]